

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1- 15 (cancelled)

Claims 16 - 14 (cancelled)

Claim 42 (currently amended): A method for treating or minimizing, post-ischemic brain cell deterioration in humans comprising the step of administering by inhalation to a human a therapeutically-effective amount of a medicinal composition comprising 75 volume percent or less nitrous oxide ~~or nitrous oxide donor~~, and 50 volume percent or less xenon ~~or a xenon donor~~, at least part of said nitrous oxide ~~or nitrous oxide donor~~ and xenon ~~or xenon donor~~ being in gaseous form, thereby treating or minimizing post-ischemic brain cell deterioration in said human.

Claim 43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 42, wherein said method further comprises adding at least one component selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, and argon to said medicinal composition.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 42, wherein said method comprises adding oxygen and nitrogen to said medicinal composition.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The method according to Claim ~~43~~ 42, wherein said nitrous oxide ~~or nitrous oxide donor~~, and xenon ~~or xenon donor~~ are substantially in gaseous form.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 42, wherein said post-ischemic brain cell deterioration is subsequent to a stroke in said human.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 42, wherein said post-ischemic brain cell deterioration results in a stroke to said human.

Claims 49-51 (canceled)

Claim 52 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 42, wherein said ~~medicinal composition comprises gaseous xenon and gaseous nitrous oxide~~ are in gaseous form.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 42, wherein said medicinal composition further comprises from about 19% to about 25% by volume of oxygen.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 42, wherein said medicinal composition ~~containing gaseous xenon and gaseous nitrous oxide~~ is placed in a pressurized gas container.

Claim 55 (currently amended): A method for treating or minimizing post-ischemic brain cell deterioration in humans comprising the step of administering by inhalation to a human a therapeutically-effective amount of a medicinal composition comprising a mixture of gaseous nitrous oxide and gaseous xenon, thereby treating or minimizing post-ischemic brain cell deterioration in said human, the nitrous oxide being present in an amount of 75 volume percent or less and the xenon being present at a concentration of 50 volume percent or less.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 55, wherein the medicinal composition further comprises oxygen.

Claim 57 (canceled)

Claim 58 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 56, wherein said ~~medicinal composition comprises~~ said oxygen is present at a concentration of from about 19% to about 25% by volume of oxygen.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 55, wherein said post-ischemic brain cell deterioration is subsequent to a stroke in said human.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 55, wherein said post-ischemic brain cell deterioration results in a stroke in said human.

Claim 61 (currently amended): A method for providing a neuro-protective action in the brain of a human comprising the step of administering by inhalation to said human a therapeutically-effective amount of a medicinal composition comprising a mixture of gaseous nitrous oxide at a concentration of 75 volume percent or less and gaseous xenon at a concentration of 50 volume percent or less.

Claim 62 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 60, wherein said medicinal composition comprises up to about 80% by volume of nitrous oxide and less than about 60% by volume of xenon.

Claims 63 - 66 (cancelled)